(c) whether any negotiations have been held with regard to Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) as the part of FTA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Sir, India has not initiated negotiations for entering into Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Brazil and South Africa. However, negotiations have been concluded for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with MERCOSUR (comprising of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) and negotiations are underway for a PTA with South African Customs Union, SACU (comprising of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia & Swaziland). India-MERCOSUR PTA and its Annexes have been signed on January 25, 2004 and March 19, 2005 respectively. Under this PTA India and MERCOSUR will grant tariff concession to each other on 450 and 452 tariff lines respectively. The PTA will come into effect after ratification by the legislatives of MERCOSUR countries which is awaited from Argentina and Brazil.

SEZs approved for Haryana and Uttarakhand

863. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many SEZ proposals have been approved for Haryana and Uttarakhand;

(b) which are the major industrial activities for which SEZs have been approved in Uttarakhand and Haryana separately; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up a tourism SEZ in Uttarakhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In Haryana, 32 Formal approvals for setting up of Special Economic Zones for Electronic Hardware/IT/ ITES, textiles, engineering, bio-technology, and multi-services have been granted. In Uttarakhand, 3 formal approvals have been granted for IT/ITES and multi-product SEZs.

(c) No, Sir.

Low share exports in international trade

864. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country's share of export is very low in the international trade market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government to increase our exports in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per the latest data available from WTO, India's share in the world merchandise exports increased